Dear Joe,

1/30/91

By the time you get this you should have received the book-length recollections. I hope they are clear enough.

The past six days have been so hectic for me now, as years ago they would not have been, I don't know what I've written you.

An old friend who is also wealthy was here last weekend with one of his sons so I could help him with a book he is working on. Before my friend, who has spent most of his adult life in publishing left, he told me he thinks he can place my started book on the King assassination and he told me to find an assistant for whom he'll pay. I've started that search and have a lead.

We had breakfast last Saturday morning at his motel and with what we were talking about on my mind I typed a page of a new beginning that he read unedited, copied and took with him, and said he liked. I've continued working on it. I sent some with the copies I had xeroxed for him of the carbon copies of what I'd written more than 25 years ago and since then I've finished the rough, probably very rough draft of the remainder of what I now consider a prologue. I'll say no more about this and let you decide for yourself whether or not at least some of it is what you've had in mind.

I don't recall whether I sent you something I wrote to someone else by way of a tentative analysis of what may be behind the Iraqi planes going to Iran. It has been almost a half-century since I was an intelligence analyst but sometimes I think of developments as though I still were.

I've not for these recent days been able to follow Gulf developments closely but from what I've heard on radio and TV I think the reporters, commentators and official briefers have missed a clear possibility that to me is obvious.

We've been told that we are blasting the Iraqi supposedly best troop just across the Saudi border in Kuwait and that they show signs of the lack of food and water, are covered with lice, etc. Assuming these things to be true, or if exaggerated, not too exaggerated, I've read or heard no thinking on what this means for them, what their alternatives are. Especially if the reports of our blasting convoys believed to be taking food to them are true.

However effective or ineffective the B52 bombings of them may be, and they were not nearly as effective in Viet Nam as the army boasted, the record clearly known to the Iraqis, if they can't be supplied adequately, the one thing they can't do is just stay in place and take it. This means they'll have to retreat, which exposes them to aerial attack even if they do it at night, or attack. What I've not heard mentioned that occurred to me as soon as I heard the reports on their condition, is that for various reasons, one of which Saddam, they may elect to attack. I was reminded of this a little while ago when I heard on the radio that they'd advanced into a town in Saudi Arabia where a battle was in progress. This might or might not be a feeler.

From the weather we've been having you'll be well-advised to stay there a little longer than usual. I hope that whenever you do return, you can leave the train at Alexandria and stop off for a visit.

Best,